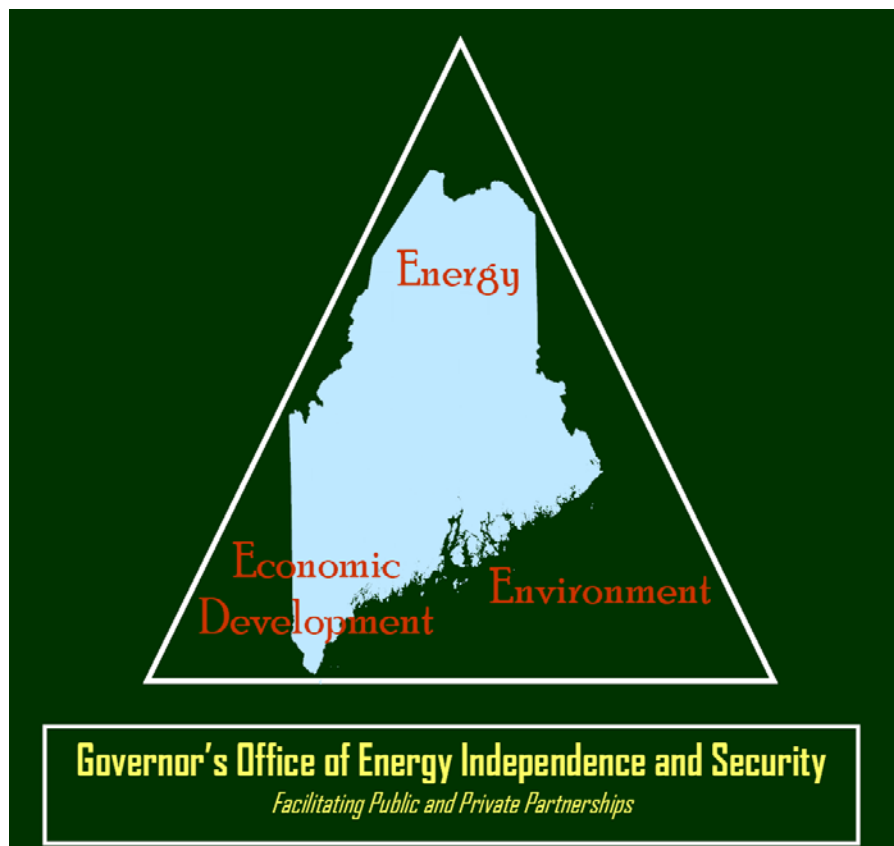


# **GRANTS CONNECTOR**

## **ENERGY PROJECT GRANTS, INCENTIVES AND OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**



**February 2012**

## **Grants Connector – February 2012**

### **Sample Opportunities**

- \$ USDA Invites Applications for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Projects
- \$ Pre-solicitation Meeting - Offshore Wind
- \$ Natural Gas Distribution
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- \$ Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative: High Operating Temperature Fluids
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- \$ Request for Information on Early Market Opportunities for Fuel Cell Technologies
- \$ Smart Grid Data Access
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- \$ HUD Multifamily Energy Innovation Fund
- \$ Funding for Energy-Saving Lighting Technology Research and Development
- \$ FHA, Fannie Mae Launch Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program
- \$ Energy for Sustainability
- \$ Tax Credits for Energy Efficiency

## *Grants Connector – February 2012*

### **USDA Invites Applications for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Projects**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced the availability of funding from the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill). REAP is designed to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses reduce energy costs and consumption and help meet the Nation's critical energy needs. For 2012, USDA has approximately \$25.4 million budget authority available to fund REAP activities, which will support at least \$12.5 million in grant and approximately \$48.5 million in guaranteed loan program level awards. USDA is accepting the following applications:

- renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement grant applications and combination grant and guaranteed loan applications until March 30, 2012;
- renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement guaranteed loan only applications on a continuous basis up to June 29, 2012;
- renewable energy system feasibility study applications through March 30, 2012; and,
- energy audits and renewable energy development assistance applications through February 21, 2012.

More information on how to apply for funding is available in the January 20, 2012 Federal Register, pages 2948 through 2954.

Maine Rural Energy Development Coordinator

Beverly Stone, USDA Rural  
Development, 967 Illinois Avenue,  
Suite 4, P.O. Box 405, Bangor, ME  
04402-0405, (207) 990-9125,

### **Pre-solicitation Meeting - Offshore Wind**

The Wind and Water Power Program (WWPP) within the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy intends to release a Funding Opportunity Announcement, tentatively entitled "U.S. Offshore Wind: Advanced Technology Demonstration Projects". WWPP is planning a pre-solicitation public meeting in order to provide notice in advance of release of the FOA and to afford prospective applicants an opportunity to comment on the planned FOA.

Please visit the following site for more information: <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#3dd3ebbe-c301-48b3-9b51-4c5d7151acdf>.

The Federal Register notice points out the public meeting (Feb. 7) and comment (Feb. 14 deadline) information.

### **Natural Gas Distribution**

#### **RFP # 201201207**

The State of Maine through the Bureau of General Services in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services and in cooperation with other participating departments of State government seeks to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with an existing energy provider to provide natural gas to either the Augusta area, the Rockland area with connection to Warren, or both. There is no natural gas pipeline in existence in these areas currently. The State is looking for the development of a pipeline to deliver natural gas to those areas, but would not rule out development of a trucked natural gas distribution system to cover those areas. While the State is not committing funding to this project, the State would look at the use of natural gas at State facilities in those areas as a cost savings measure over its current energy costs.

A copy of the full Request for Proposal is available on the Bureau's website at <http://www.maine.gov/bgs/>

To participate, a vendor must register by emailing a request to [alan.henry@maine.gov](mailto:alan.henry@maine.gov) by 2 p.m. on Friday, February 10, 2012. Please include "Natural Gas" in the subject line. Questions and answers will be emailed to registered vendors only.

All bids must be delivered and received by **2:00 P.M., Friday, February 24, 2012**, the time of bid opening, to:

Division of Purchases  
Burton M. Cross Building, 4th Floor  
"PROPOSAL FOR NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION"  
RFP # 201201207  
111 Sewall Street  
9 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0009

### **Request for Proposals – Ocean Energy Review**

The Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security (OEIS) is issuing this "Request for Proposals" (RFP) for a Provider to develop a report regarding terms and conditions for long-term contracts for installed capacity and associated renewable energy and renewable energy credits produced by renewable ocean energy projects. The Provider will prepare the economic and energy information and data needed and format in a clear, comprehensible arrangement with narrative, graphs, tables and documents that will permit the OEIS to formulate substantive recommendations.

To request a copy of the detailed RFP, contact [Jeffrey.Marks@maine.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Marks@maine.gov).

A signed original and 5 copies of the proposal must be clearly marked with the bidder's return address and the notation: "**Proposal: RFP # 201201212 Ocean Energy Review**" and delivered to the Division of Purchases, Burton Cross Bldg., 4<sup>th</sup> floor, 111 Sewall Street, 9 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0009 no later than 2:00 p.m. local time on **February 21, 2012** at which time and place they will be opened.

### **Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative: High Operating Temperature Fluids**

The objective of the Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI): High Operating Temperature Fluids ("HOT Fluids") Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to support research into fluid materials development that will enable Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) systems to integrate with energy conversion devices capable of thermal to electric conversion efficiencies greater than 50%. DOE anticipates providing up to \$10M in funding for up to 2 awardees to accomplish the goals of this funding opportunity. This FOA directly supports the goals of the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Solar Energy Technologies Program and the SunShot Initiative.

Full Application Submission Deadline: 4/19/2012 5:00 PM ET

More information at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#3dd3ebbe-c301-48b3-9b51-4c5d7151acdf>

### **\$3 Million to Administer Superior Energy Performance Program**

The Department of Energy (DOE) has announced up to \$3 million to help American manufacturers leverage energy efficiency as a path to increased competitiveness. Provided by the Advanced Manufacturing Office and the Building Technologies Program, the funding will support a Program Administrator whose role will be to promote and operate the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) – accredited Superior Energy Performance (SEP) program. Once launched, SEP will provide a clear roadmap to help industrial and commercial facilities achieve continual improvements in energy efficiency. The program also promises to tackle a potential barrier to otherwise profitable energy efficiency investments by providing a transparent, globally accepted system for companies to validate improvements in their energy performance.

The funding is expected to be awarded to at least one entity over a period of up to three years subject to an annual performance review to determine if acceptable progress is being made toward meeting program goals and deliverables. Eligible applicants for this funding opportunity include U.S. domestic entities or consortia composed of: 1)

academic institutions; and 2) non-profit [except 501(c)(4) non-profits] and for-profit private entities.

For more information and application requirements for this Funding Opportunity Announcement, please visit the Funding Opportunity Exchange website at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>. Letters of Intent in connection with this opportunity are due February 21, 2012. Applications will be accepted through 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on March 21, 2012. DOE anticipates notifying applicants selected for awards by May 2012 and making awards by June 2012.

### **DOE Releases Request for Information on Early Market Opportunities for Fuel Cell Technologies**

The Department of Energy (DOE) has issued a Request for Information asking for stakeholder feedback on the commercial readiness of fuel cell and hydrogen technologies. Topics covered include: auxiliary power on board commercial, heavy duty road vehicles for refrigeration; fuel cell battery rechargers for all electric vehicles used for transporting freight or passengers; and technology deployment projects for other on or off road transportation markets. The deadline for responses is March 2, 2012.  
<https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/?doc=DE-FOA-0000655&agency=DOE>.

### **Smart Grid Data Access**

\$8 million in funding to encourage utilities, local governments, and communities to create programs that empower consumers to better manage their electricity use through better access to their own electricity consumption data. The “Smart Grid Data Access” Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) addresses the major steps needed for a community to better leverage their smart grid assets on behalf of consumers: creating policies that give consumers and authorized third-parties such as app developers access to customer data; and demonstrating the value of these apps and services across communities. The FOA, which is available at [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov) and [FedConnect.net](http://FedConnect.net),  
(<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=fzvyTCrQpG65yYRT1LTmwywmsG2CGvT8Zh14xkLLFYRJZhKHT!-102435184?oppId=130273&mode=VIEW>) provides additional information, including cost-sharing requirements for government-industry cooperation. The deadline for submitting applications is March 2, 2012.

### **Efficiency Maine Trust – Maine PACE Financing**

Low Monthly Payments Mean Big Energy Savings!
--

Borrow up to \$15,000, at 4.99% for 15 years, for energy efficiency upgrades that make your home more comfortable. Upgrade your heating system, weatherize your home, and make other improvements to cut your heating bills month after month.

Please visit:

<http://www.efficiencymaine.com/pace>.

Find a participating energy advisor at:

[http://www.efficiencymaine.com/at-home/hesp\\_program/find\\_an\\_energy\\_advisor](http://www.efficiencymaine.com/at-home/hesp_program/find_an_energy_advisor).

Months	60	120	180
<b>\$6,500</b>	\$123	\$69	<b>\$51</b>
<b>\$7,500</b>	\$141	\$80	<b>\$59</b>
<b>\$8,500</b>	\$160	\$90	<b>\$67</b>
<b>\$9,500</b>	\$179	\$101	<b>\$75</b>
<b>\$10,500</b>	\$198	\$111	<b>\$83</b>
<b>\$11,500</b>	\$217	\$122	<b>\$91</b>
<b>\$12,500</b>	\$236	\$133	<b>\$99</b>
<b>\$13,500</b>	\$255	\$143	<b>\$107</b>
<b>\$14,500</b>	\$274	\$154	<b>\$115</b>
<b>\$15,000</b>	\$283	\$159	<b>\$119</b>

"Ballpark" payments based on 4.99% APR.  
Final payment depends on actual loan amount.

Find a registered Maine PACE vendor at:

<http://www.efficiencymaine.com/docs/PACE/DownloadsForms/Maine-PACE-Registered-Vendor-List.pdf>.

Participating towns at:

<http://www.efficiencymaine.com/docs/PACE/DownloadsForms/List-of-PACE-municipalities.pdf>.

APPLY ONLINE at

<https://www.afcfirst.com/application/index.php?programid=642e92efb79421734881b53e1e1b18b6> OR CALL 1-866-ES-MAINE TO APPLY TODAY.

Borrow up to \$15,000, at 4.99% for 15 years, for energy efficiency upgrades that make your home more comfortable. Upgrade your heating system, weatherize your home, and make other improvements to cut your heating bills month after month.

### **Maine Small Business Credit Initiatives**

On September 16, 2011, the U.S. Department of the Treasury and Maine Governor Paul LePage announced the approval of Maine's State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) application (see Governor's press release at <http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=Portal+News&id=304431&v=Article-2008>). The \$13.2 million in funds will help create new private sector jobs and spur more than \$132 million in additional small-businesses lending in that state. The funding will take place in three stages, with the first allocation of \$4.3 million now taking place.

The SSBCI funds will be used to recapitalize three existing, successful programs:

1. \$7 million will be available to a group of 15 regional economic development agencies to make loans to businesses in their area. See FAME's Regional Economic Development Revolving Loan Program.
2. \$3.2 million will be allocated to FAME for the Economic Recovery Loan Program – loans of up to \$1 million that meet the program's underwriting requirements, which can be used statewide;
3. \$3 million will be allocated to the Small Enterprise Growth Fund – Maine's state-run venture capital fund.

For more information, please contact FAME's Bob Corey at (207) 620-3524.

### **Office of Science Financial Assistance Program**

The U.S. Department of Energy announces its continuing interest in receiving applications for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to: Basic Energy Sciences and Biological and Environmental Research, and Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists. Subtopics include Solar Photochemistry Research, and Climate Sciences. \$400 million expected to be available, multiple awards anticipated. Responses due 9/30/12. For more info, contact Kimberlie Laing at kim.laing@science.doe.gov or go to: <https://www.fedconnect.net/fedconnect/?doc=DE-FOA-0000660&agency=DOE>. Refer to Sol# DE-FOA-0000600.

### **HUD Multifamily Energy Innovation Fund**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Affordable Housing Preservation (OAHP) is issuing a notice of fund availability (NOFA) for the Multifamily Energy Innovation Fund. This fund provides a total of \$25 million in grants to be used for the purpose of energy efficiency upgrades at multifamily properties. The goals of this NOFA are to:

1. Demonstrate solutions to the primary and longstanding challenges to implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements, in existing affordable multifamily properties.
2. Leverage private capital and additional public funding to demonstrate "proof of concept" of specific models.
3. Conduct applied research to document and disseminate mainstream, scalable approaches to retrofitting affordable multifamily properties.

The overall objective of the Energy Innovation Fund is to help catalyze a home energy retrofit market in the United States by accelerating private investment in cost-saving energy efficiency retrofits in the residential sector. Innovative and replicable strategies to improve the usefulness of existing HUD programs--as well as developing new financing



tools--will lead to significant reductions in energy consumption, operating costs, and the carbon footprint of both affordable and market-rate housing. More information can be found here: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/nofa10/grpeif.cfm>.

### **FHA, Fannie Mae Launch Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program**

The U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) announced on May 31 its Green Refinance Plus, a program between HUD's Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and Fannie Mae to boost energy efficiency in older affordable housing. The program will allow owners of existing affordable rental housing properties to refinance into new mortgages that include funding for energy- and water-saving upgrades, along with other needed property renovations.

Under the program, FHA and Fannie Mae will share the risk on loans to refinance existing rent-restricted projects while permitting owners to borrow additional funds to make energy-saving improvements to their properties. Owners of existing multifamily affordable properties typically refinance their mortgages every 10 to 15 years. In older apartment buildings, however, owners are often hard-pressed to find additional financing to maintain or improve the physical condition of their properties, including making energy-efficient upgrades. Soon, Fannie Mae and its participating lenders will begin accepting applications to refinance owners' debt and improve the energy efficiency of their properties.

The initiative is intended to refinance the expiring mortgages of Low Income Housing Tax Credit properties, and other affordable projects, and to lower annual operating costs by reducing energy consumption. Fannie Mae and HUD anticipate approximately \$100 million in initial refinance volume with an average loan amount of \$3.5 to \$5 million.

[http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/2011/HUDNo.11-106](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2011/HUDNo.11-106).

### **Energy for Sustainability**

The National Science Foundation requests proposals for Energy for Sustainability. This program supports fundamental research and education in energy production, conversion, and storage and is focused on energy sources that are environmentally friendly and renewable. Sources of sustainable energy include: Sunlight, Wind/Wave, Biomass, and Geothermal. \$9.2 million expected to be available, up to 42 awards anticipated.



Responses due 2/17/12. For more info, contact Gregory Rorrer at [gorrer@nsf.gov](mailto:gorrer@nsf.gov) or go to: [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=501026](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=501026). Refer to Sol# PD-12-7644. (Grants.gov 6/8/11)

### **Tax Credits for Energy Efficiency** **(<http://www.energysavers.gov/financial/70010.html>)**

If you purchase an energy-efficient product or renewable energy system for your home, you may be eligible for a federal tax credit. Below is an overview of the federal tax credits for energy efficiency that are currently available.

Some energy efficiency tax credits are available through 2016 as noted below.

### **How to Claim Your Tax Credit**

- Visit the [IRS website](http://www.irs.gov/) <http://www.irs.gov/> to obtain the correct forms for the tax year you are filing.
- Use the following forms:
  - For renewable and efficiency credits: [IRS Form 5695](#) 
  - For alternative motor vehicle credits: IRS Form 8910. Also download instructions for form 8910.
  - For qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicle credits: [IRS Form 8936](#) 
- Save your receipts, or make copies of them, and the Manufacturer Certification Statement for your records.
- NOTE: The credits are nonrefundable—in other words, the credits are only available to the extent you have a tax liability. The credits for home energy improvement products eligible through 2011 may be limited if you are subject to the AMT.
- Tax credits can only be claimed once, and are limited to the year in which they are purchased: If you claimed a home energy improvement tax credit on your 2010 taxes, you cannot take an additional credit for the same purchase on your 2011 taxes.
- There is a \$500 lifetime limit on the federal tax credits that expire in December 2011 (not those that expire in 2016). If you have received a total of \$500 or more in these tax credits from 2006-2010, you are not eligible for any more.

### ***Products Eligible for Tax Credits Through 2011* *Products Eligible for Tax Credits Through 2016***

Tax credits for these products are available at 30% of the cost, with no upper limit, through 2016 (Select "See Details" for more information on each product, or see the [printable version](#)).

#### **Geothermal Heat Pump**



*Credit: Bruce Green*

**Credit:** 30% of cost, with no upper limit

**When and Where:**

- Must be "placed in service" by Dec. 31, 2016
- Available on principal home or second home.
- New and existing homes

- See details

Product	Requirements	More Information
<b>Geothermal Heat Pump</b>	Closed Loop: EER $\geq$ 14.1; COP $\geq$ 3.3 Open Loop: EER $\geq$ 16.2; COP $\geq$ 3.6 Direct Expansion: EER $\geq$ 15; COP $\geq$ 3.5 Credit includes installation costs.	Learn more about <a href="#">geothermal heat pumps</a> , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Types of geothermal heat pumps</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Efficiency ratings of geothermal heat pumps</a></li></ul> All <a href="#">ENERGY STAR geothermal heat pumps</a> qualify.

## Solar Energy Systems



*Credit: Cheryl Unger*

**Credit:** 30% of cost, with no upper limit

**When and Where:**

- Must be "placed in service" by Dec. 31, 2016
- Available on principal home or second home.
- New and existing homes

- See details

Product	Requirements	More Information
<b>Solar Water</b>	At least half of the energy	Learn more about <a href="#">solar</a>

<b>Heating Property</b>	<p>generated by the "qualifying property" must come from the sun.</p> <p>The system must be certified by the <u>Solar Rating and Certification Corporation</u> (SRCC).</p> <p>Credit includes installation costs.</p>	<p><u>water heaters</u>.</p> <p>All <u>ENERGY STAR solar water heaters</u> qualify.</p> <p>The water must be used in the dwelling. The credit is not available for expenses for swimming pools or hot tubs.</p> <p>Tax credits are only available for the solar water heating system property, not the entire water heating system of the household.</p>
<b>Photovoltaic Systems (Solar Electric Property)</b>	<p>Photovoltaic systems must provide electricity for the residence and must meet applicable fire and electrical code requirement.</p>	<p>Learn more about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Small solar electric systems</u></li> <li>• Things to consider when <u>making your own electricity</u> with renewable energy systems</li> </ul>

## Wind Energy Systems



*Credit: Bergey WindPower*

**Credit:** 30% of cost, with no upper limit

**When and Where:**

- Must be "placed in service" by Dec. 31, 2016
- Available on principal home or second home.
- New and existing homes

- See details

**Product**

**Requirements**

**More Information**

### Residential Small Wind Turbines

Nameplate capacity of not more than 100 kilowatts.  
Credit includes installation costs.

Learn more about:

- [Small wind electric systems](#)
- Things to consider when [making your own electricity](#) with renewable energy systems

### Fuel Cells



*Credit: Capstone Turbine Corporation*

**Credit:** 30% of cost, up to \$500 per .5 kW of power capacity

**When and Where:**

- Must be "placed in service" by Dec. 31, 2016
- Primary residence
- New and existing homes

- See details

Product	Requirements	More Information
<b>Residential Fuel Cell Systems</b>	Efficiency of at least 30% and must have a capacity of at least 0.5 kW. Credit includes installation costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learn more about <a href="#">fuel cells</a></li></ul>

### Vehicle Tax Credits

Tax credits are also available for some vehicles (Select "See Details" for more information on each product, or see the [printable version](#)).

### Plug-In Electric Vehicles




Credit: ©iStockphoto.com

**Credit:** Varies, see below.

**When:**

- See below; credits phased-out after certain number of vehicles are sold.

- See details

Product	Requirements	More Information
<b>Plug-in electric and small neighborhood electric vehicles</b>	Credit: Up to \$7,500, based on capacity of the battery system.	<p>The first 200,000 vehicles sold get the full tax credit before the credit begins phasing out. <u>Use IRS Form 8936</u> .</p> <p>See <a href="http://Fueleconomy.gov">Fueleconomy.gov</a> to find out which vehicles qualify for the credit.</p> <p>See the IRS information on the <a href="#">Plug-in Electric Vehicle Credit</a>.</p> <p>Also see credits for alternative fuel vehicle refueling property.</p>